### 14.0 HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This section provides an overview of the project's potential to expose people to hazards arising from the construction and use of features proposed for the Greenway Vision. As the locations of trails, staging areas, and other amenities discussed in the Vision are approximate, potential impacts are analyzed at a programmatic level rather than a project-specific level. No site-specific assessment of the presence of hazardous materials has been conducted. Individual Greenway projects proposed in the future may require a site-specific evaluation of the potential for exposure to hazards and hazardous materials.

The construction and use of Greenway facilities would have the potential to expose people and property to hazards relating to:

- Accidental release of hazardous materials during project construction
- Contact with hazardous materials as a result of project site location
- Flooding hazards
- Seismic hazards
- Fire hazards
- Vector borne hazards

Seismic hazards are discussed in Chapter 11.0 and impacts related to seismic hazard exposure were determined to be less than significant. Hazards from flooding are discussed in Chapter 12.0 and were determined to be less than significant after mitigation. Please refer to those chapters for the relevant discussion. This chapter will discuss potential hazards within the project area related to hazardous materials, fire, and vectors.

## 14.1 Environmental Setting

## 14.1.1 Proposed Project Area Setting

Historical land uses within the proposed project areas included agriculture and ranching. The current land uses surrounding the proposed project areas range from rural residential/agricultural to more intense residential and commercial. There are also occasional industrial uses near the riparian areas, particularly near the Union Pacific Railroad alignment. Project areas near previous or current industrial land uses would have the potential to result in exposure of people to hazardous materials.

In the lower watershed much of the project area (corridors) proposed for the Greenway within the unincorporated areas of Placer County is currently designated as open space and park/recreation (in particular those portions of the corridors within a designated 100-year floodplain). These areas are generally part of an overall agricultural or low-density housing setting. However, increased development, primarily in the form of medium-density residential land use, is changing the nature of the unincorporated areas, particularly within the Dry Creek-West Placer Community Plan area. Most of the streams in the middle and upper watershed are located within private residential land use designations with much less of these areas designated

as open space. In general, the proposed Greenway amenities would be located within a wide variety of land use settings.

Greenway corridors, trails, and nodes are planned near existing creeks and streams. People utilizing the Greenway at these locations have the potential of coming into contact with vectors (mosquitoes, etc.). Vectors are organisms which can transmit diseases from one host to another, or more specifically to humans. Mosquitoes are one of the most common vectors with several different species having widely differing life histories and habitat requirements. Mosquitoes serve as vectors for several diseases, including malaria, encephalitis and West Nile Virus.

## 14.2 Regulatory Setting

The following section includes information on federal, state and local regulations applicable to the project area in relation to hazards and hazardous materials. These regulations include policies and guidelines enacted by the State of California, Placer County Environmental Health Services, County of Placer and the local fire districts regarding the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances.

#### 14.2.1 Federal

The primary federal agencies that are responsible for overseeing regulations and policies regarding hazardous materials are the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Several laws governing the transport, storage, and use of hazardous materials are governed by these agencies as well as oversight for contaminated sites cleanup. Those relevant to the proposed project are listed below.

- The Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulates hazardous waste management.
- The Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Amendments Act (HSWA) regulates hazardous waste management.
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulates the cleanup of contaminated sites.

Title 40 of the CFR contains specific requirements for implementation of these statutes, and CFR Titles 29 and 49 contain regulations that apply to workplace safety and transportation of hazardous materials.

# 14.2.2 State Regulations

#### **State Agencies**

Several state agencies provide development, oversight and enforcement of the laws and regulations dealing with hazardous materials. The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) provide oversight and regulations for the use of hazardous materials throughout the state. The DTSC is part of Cal/EPA, and has authority under the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) to designate responsibilities for generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials to local

jurisdictions. It also provides oversight for the clean up of widespread soil contamination, or for sites requiring a risk assessment such as a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment. CCR Title 22 provides state regulations for hazardous materials, and CCR Title 26 provides regulation of hazardous materials management. In 1996, Cal/EPA established the "Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program" (Unified Program) which consolidated the six administrative components of hazardous waste and materials into one program.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, Toxic Pits Cleanup, Underground Tank Law, and the Clean Water Act all provide authority to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the Regional Water Control Board (RWQCB) for regulation of surface and groundwater quality. The RWQCB may designate responsibilities such as underground permitting and monitoring to local jurisdictions like Placer County. If underground (UST) or above-ground storage tanks (AST) would be located on site after construction and development activities are completed, these tanks must be registered with the State Water Resources Control Board.

## **Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)**

Senate Bill 1082 (California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.11) was created in 1993 as an amendment to the California Health and Safety Code, which mandated the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). This program established a unified hazardous waste and materials management regulatory program that covers Hazardous Materials Business Plan/Emergency Response Plan, Hazardous Waste/Tiered Permitting, Underground Storage Tanks, Aboveground Storage Tanks, California Accidental Release Program, and the Uniform Fire Code Hazardous Material Management Plan (California Environmental Protection Agency 2004). Placer County Environmental Health Services is the CUPA for Placer County and all cities within the County except for the City of Roseville which utilizes the Roseville Fire Department as its CUPA.

## 14.2.3 Local (Placer County)

#### **Local Fire Departments**

The Placer County Fire District, the South Placer Fire District, the Loomis Fire District, the Penryn Fire District, and the Newcastle Fire District would be responsible for providing fire protection services for the Greenway project areas. If temporary storage tanks to store fuel and/or other flammable/combustible liquids are required to be installed on the project sites during construction, the project proponent must comply with the requirements for installation of temporary above-ground storage tanks as provided by the fire districts. Requirements include inspection of vegetation breaks and identification of emergency shut-off valves and switches.

#### **Placer County**

Placer County has also developed a Hazardous Waste Management Plan for monitoring waste generation, including household hazardous wastes. The plan also calls for maintaining an inventory of contaminated sites and hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. The Placer County Solid Waste Management Division is responsible for recycling and disposal programs at the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal facility at the Western Placer Materials Recovery Facility in Roseville.

Placer County Environmental Health Services is responsible for screening and simple confined removal of hazardous materials only. The state DTSC oversees hazardous materials assessment and cleanup oversight for contaminated properties.

#### **Placer Mosquito Abatement District**

The Placer Mosquito Abatement District (Placer MAD) is a special district that serves all of Placer County, including incorporated cities and towns. The District performs surveillance and testing to determine vector habitat and uses physical, biological, and chemical methods to prevent and control mosquito problems. Emphasis is placed on environmentally safe control methods including the elimination of standing water, the distribution of mosquito fish and the use of natural bacteria that target mosquito larvae before they reach the adult stage. Public education is also a key component of the District's services. To protect public health the District focuses on control and elimination of existing vector habitat as well as prevention of new habitat. District activities are funded primarily from parcel assessments within the district.

#### **Placer County General Plan**

The following Placer County policies relevant to the proposed project are outlined in the Placer County General Plan.

#### Policies:

- 8.G.1. The County shall ensure that the use and disposal of hazardous materials in the county complies with local, state, and federal safety standards.
- 8.G.13. The County shall work with local fire protection and other agencies to ensure an adequate countywide response capability to hazardous materials emergencies.

# 14.3 Environmental Impacts

Historical land use and the potential for hazards or hazardous materials to exist within the project area were the criteria used to assess potential impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials, as well as consideration for activities associated with the construction and proposed future uses of the site.

# 14.3.1 Criteria for Significance

The CEQA Guidelines have established criteria for determining the significance of project related impacts from hazards and hazardous materials. Project impacts would be considered significant if they would:

- Create a potential health hazard or involve the use, production, or disposal of materials which pose a hazard to people, animal, or plant populations in the area affected.
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- Interfere with emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

### 14.3.2 Impacts from Hazards and Hazardous Materials

**Impact 14-1:** Exposure of people or the environment to hazards or

hazardous materials related to the presence of existing or

unknown hazards related to past land uses in or near

proposed project sites.
Potentially significant

Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure 14-1, Conduct a site-specific

evaluation for proposed individual Greenway projects to determine if proposed sites are on identified hazardous material site lists. If the site is identified as a hazardous material site, relocate the project feature or conduct a Preliminary Site Assessment and perform any required

remediation.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant

As Greenway projects are identified in the future for site-specific implementation, exact trail and node locations would be determined. At that time, it would be necessary to determine if project locations would be on or near sites that could potentially expose people to hazardous materials during the construction or use of the Greenway. Mitigation measure 14-1 requires that a site-specific evaluation be conducted to determine if the site is identified as a hazardous materials site. If so identified, the project feature would be moved if feasible, or a Preliminary Site Assessment would be conducted to determine required remediation. This would reduce the impacts to less than significant.

**Impact 14-2:** Exposure of people or the environment to hazards or

hazardous materials related to the storage and accidental

release of hazardous substances during construction.

**Significance:** Potentially significant

**Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation Measure 14-2a, Comply with all federal, state,

Placer County and fire district requirements for temporary storage of flammable/combustible materials at construction

sites; and 14-2b, Comply with all federal, state, Placer County and fire district requirements for reporting releases

of hazardous materials.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant

Hazardous materials would not be used in the operation of Greenway facilities. However, construction of the trails and other amenities would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials, including but not limited to, fuels, petroleum products, and asphalt. Construction personnel and people living or working near the sites could be exposed to accidental releases of these materials. Accidental releases could affect human health and/or pollute soils and waters, resulting in potentially significant impacts. Mitigation measures 14-2a and 14-2b are proposed to reduce the impacts to less than significant.

**Impact 14-3:** Exposure of people or structures to wildland fires.

Significance: Less than significant
Mitigation Measures: None Required

The proposed Greenway features would be located within open space areas containing both native and non-native vegetation. During the dry season, the potential for fire increases. Existing fire districts currently provide fire and emergency medical response services in all areas that are proposed locations for Greenway elements.

The Greenway Vision trail design guidelines recommend that paved trails be designed to allow for emergency vehicle access. The Vision strategies also contain the following facilities management recommendations:

- Control and limit fuel loads around structures according to the recommendations of the local fire district or department.
- Additional emergency vehicle access, other than that identified in the Plan, shall be as recommended by the fire and police/sheriff departments of the local governments with approval as required by the State Reclamation Board.
- Where public access is to be accommodated, locate and maintain vegetation to ensure public safety. Trim or remove dead vegetation to eliminate immediate fire danger.
   Where public safety is not an issue, retain dead vegetation to provide shelter for wildlife.

Construction of the Greenway features in accordance with the Vision design guidelines and operation of the Greenway in accordance with the management recommendations would result in a less than significant impact from wildland fire.

**Impact 14-4:** Exposure of Greenway users to vector borne diseases

**Significance:** Potentially significant

**Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation Measure 14-4a, Conduct a site-specific

evaluation for proposed individual Greenway projects to determine if proposed sites require a Vector Prevention and Control program, and if required by the evaluation, create a

program subject to approval by the Placer Mosquito

Abatement District; and Mitigation Measure 14-4b, Include

responsible parties for vector prevention/control

implementation and on-going maintenance in any required

Control Program.

**Significance after Mitigation:** Less than significant

## 14.4 Mitigation Measures

**Mitigation Measure 14-1:** Conduct a site-specific evaluation for proposed individual Greenway projects to determine if proposed sites are on identified hazardous material site lists or in an area of past commercial uses that may have resulted in residual contamination. If the proposed project sites are located on or near identified hazard sites or areas where past commercial uses may have resulted in residual contamination, relocate the project feature to a location not on or near such sites if feasible. If feature relocation is not feasible, conduct a preliminary site assessment and complete required remediation before construction.

There is also a potential to uncover previously unidentified areas of soil or groundwater contamination, or other hazardous substances during grading or earth-moving activities. Indications of potentially contaminated soil or ground water may include, but are not limited to stained soil, soil or groundwater that has an unusual odor, or a former waste disposal site. If any contaminated soil, groundwater or other hazardous materials not previously identified are uncovered or observed during site preparation, the site manager will instruct all contractors and subcontractors to stop work immediately in the affected area and notify the Placer County Environmental Health Services Hazardous Materials Section (EHS-HMS) for suspected soil contamination, or in the case of contaminated groundwater, the RWQCB will be notified. Mitigation shall include remediation consistent with the standards specified by the EHS-HMS or the RWQCB who will provide oversight to resolve the problem and address the environmental impacts to their satisfaction. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure 14-1 applies to Impact 14-1.

**Mitigation Measure 14-2a:** Comply with all federal, state, Placer County and fire district requirements for temporary storage of flammable/combustible materials at construction sites. Mitigation Measure 14-2a applies to Impact 14-2.

**Mitigation Measure 14-2b:** Comply with all federal, state, Placer County and fire district requirements for reporting releases of hazardous materials. Mitigation Measure 14-2b applies to Impact 14-2.

The contractor will comply with all requirements for reporting the release of hazardous materials. In the event of accidental release of hazardous materials during construction, the spill will be contained and reported to Placer County Environmental Health Services and the responsible fire district immediately. Any impacted soils would be excavated and disposed of per County requirements.

**Mitigation Measure 14-4a:** Conduct a site-specific evaluation for proposed individual Greenway projects to determine if a Vector Prevention and Control Program is needed. This evaluation shall include consultation with the Placer Mosquito Abatement District. If a program is determined to be needed, it shall include applicable prevention and control measures, allow for site access, and address vector habitat. This program shall be approved by the Placer Mosquito Abatement District. Mitigation Measure 14-4a applies to Impact 14-4.

Mitigation Measure 14-4b: If a site-specific Vector Prevention and Control Program is needed for an individual Greenway project, responsible parties for implementation and ongoing maintenance shall be identified in the program. Potential responsible parties for implementation and on-going maintenance could include, but not be limited to: the County of Placer, Community Service Districts, and the Placer MAD. Typically, for Greenway projects that do not create new vector habitat but are located in or near existing vector habitat, implementation of the programs as well as on-going maintenance would be carried out the Placer MAD, either at the initiation of a service request from the specific parcel owner(s) (typically the County of Placer for Greenway facilities) or initiated by the Placer MAD as determined by their assessment and knowledge of vector habitat. Should a Greenway project create a potential vector habitat, the responsible parties for vector prevention and control implementation and maintenance would also be identified in the site-specific Control Program. Each site-specific Control Program shall be approved by the Placer MAD. Mitigation Measure 14-4b applies to Impact 14-4.